REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application.

Claims 3-16 are indicated as containing allowable subject matter and claims 1 and 2 are rejected.

The Abstract is objected to for length. The original Abstract is deleted in entirety. A substitute Abstract is attached herewith.

The specification, page 13 has been amended to include RIP (Routing Interworking Protection) table.

Claims 17 and 18 are newly added. These claims are supported by the original specification.

No new matter is entered.

Claims 1, 3, 11-13 have been amended herein to clarify applicant's claimed invention.

Formal objections to claims 1, 11, 13 and 16 were raised in the Office Action. Claims 11 and 13 were amended as suggested in the Office Action With regard to claims 1 and 16 Applicant respectfully submits that the added coma may lead to a different conclusion as to the meaning of the claims. Should the Examiner maintain the objection, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's representative to discuss the objection.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Neuendorff (6,657,969) in view of Mitsuki (JP 09-093278). The Office Action asserts that all the features of claim 1 except failure-reporting means for transmitting information on a failure is shown in Neuendorff, but refers to the Mitsuki Fig. 7, to show failure occurrence-location-identifying means. The Office Action also refers to pages 8, 9 of the Mitsuki specification which describes Fig. 7 and the node control function block diagram shown in Fig. 7.

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However it is respectfully submitted that applicant's claim 1 includes features not taught or suggested in the combination of references. Claim 1 includes features where a connection implemented between terminals is not fixed, but a variety of connection implementations are available. For example, normal add/drop or DTW (Dual Termination transmit on Working) connection, DCP (Drop and Continue on Protection) one-side-end-connection, and DTP (Dual Terminal transmit on Protection) one-side-end-connection, can be supported. Thus applicant's claim 1 includes the wordings: "the following pieces of processing:

addition of a signal to either said working line and said protection line;

addition of a signal to both said working line and said protection line;

dropping of a signal from either said working line or said protection line;

dropping of said signal from both said working line and said protection line;

passing through of signal; and

dropping of a signal from either said working line or said protection line and then

relaying said signal to either said working line or said protection line."

The transmission apparatus of applicant's claim 1 doesn't switch a line in a fixed connection implementation, but switches a line according to a connection implementation between terminals in the event of a transmission apparatus failure on a working line.

Applicant's claim 1 includes classifying an implementation of a connection between terminals into corresponding connection category from connection categories corresponding to a variety of connection implementations in accordance with said gathered cross-connect categories of other transmission apparatuses and the cross-connect category of said transmission apparatus employed in said station to create a table for executing control to switch a line in the event of a

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failure for each channel, the transmission apparatus employed in said station to create a table for executing control to switch a line in the event of a failure for each channel.

The transmission apparatus of claim 1 can classify a connection implementation between terminals into a corresponding connection category from connection categories corresponding to a variety of implementations of connection.

Because of applicant's unique combination of features, the transmission apparatus can automatically classify a connection implementation between terminals into a corresponding connection category from connection categories corresponding to a variety of implementation of connection based on cross-connect information without specifying an implementation of connection.

In addition applicant's claim 1 includes the wordings, "a switching control means for executing control to switch said line based on a location of occurrence of a failure identified by said failure occurrence location identifying means and said table according to said implementation of connection." Therefore, the transmission apparatus of claim 1 can switch a line according to the connection implementation.

In contrast the cited reference Neuendorff discloses addition of a signal to either the working line or protection line, dropping of a signal from either the working line or protection line, and pass through of a signal in col. 11, lines 56-66, col. 12, lines 1-60, col. 15, lines 1-45.

However, both of Neuendorff and Mitsuki fail to disclose the features of claim 1, "addition of a signal to both said working line and said protection line, dropping of a signal from both said working line and said protection line, and dropping of a signal from either said working line or said protection line and then relaying said sign to either said working line or said protection line."

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The features of applicant's claim 1 determine a connection implementation from a variety of connection implementations.

Further, Neuendorff does not teach or suggest the features of claim 1, "addition of a signal from both said working line and said protection line, and dropping of a signal from either said working line or said protection line and then relaying said signal to either said working line or said protection line."

Neuendorff discloses that neighbor nodes respond to the cross connect request, and the ring map and squelch table are created or updated according to the responded cross connection information, in col. 7, lines 55-56, col. 8, lines 1-6, col. 14, lines 1-65.

However, both Neuendorff and Mitsuki fail to disclose the features of claim 1, "a connection-implementation classifying means for classifying an implementation of connection between terminals into a corresponding connection category from connection categories corresponding to a variety of implementations of connection."

Mitsuki also fails to disclose a variation of connection implementations, and fails to disclose the wordings of claim 1, "a switching control means for executing control to switch said line according to said implementation of connection".

That is, the transmission apparatus of Mitsuki can only execute control to switch a line according to any implementation of connection, but cannot execute control to switch a line according to any implementation of connection from a variation of implementations of connection.

For at least the foregoing reasons it is respectfully requested the rejections be withdrawn because the combination of Neuendorff in view of Mitsuki would not render claim 1 obvious.

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In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance

which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider

this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the

undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian S. Myers
Reg. No. 46,947

CUSTOMER NUMBER 026304
Telephone: (212) 940-8703
Fax: (212) 940-8986 or 8987
Docket No.: 100794-11566 (FUJM 18.307)
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